

# Belgian Congo

## A Great Savage Land & Its Motley Millions

By Demetrius C. Boulger

Author of "The Congo State"

IN 1908 Belgium took over from Leopold II. the dominion of the Congo, which thereupon became a Belgian Colony in lieu of a separate sovereignty. Founded by the personal enterprise, efforts, and expenditure of Leopold II. between 1876 and 1884, and recognized by all the principal Powers, previous to the summoning of the Berlin Conference in many cases, and before the signature of its Act in all, the independent state of the Congo was instituted in a fashion and form according to the law of Nations, absolutely identical with the status possessed by any sovereign independent state that could be named.

Formed and governed as a separate and distinct autonomy, after nearly twenty-five years it was transferred to the charge of the Constitutional and Parliamentary regime of the Belgian people. The King had so well prepared the ground, and had so thoroughly established his authority as a ruler of peace, that the transfer was effected throughout the vast region without disturbance, noise, or bloodshed. He had crushed the slave trade and expelled the Arabs; he had put an end to the traffic in arms and in spirits; he

had established the great lines and means of communication from one ocean to another.

Among the most striking events of what has been called the king's autocratic rule were the construction of the railway to Stanley Pool to turn the Cataracts, the placing of steamers on the upper river, and the introduction of coffee and cocoa planting. These laid the basis of the prosperity of the Belgian Congo.

The Belgian people and Parliament threw themselves into the task of developing their splendid inheritance with characteristic energy and fervour. The affairs and future of the great Colony passed under the control

of the Legislature, and Ministerial responsibility was substituted for what had been a one-man rule. In the years that have elapsed since the memorable debates of 1907-8, things have quietly settled down on the new basis.

Even during the German occupation of Belgium, the Colony was administered on well-ordered lines from the temporary seat of the Belgian Government on the hospitable soil of France. While calm prevailed within the Colony itself, its troops took a glorious part in the overthrow of German power in



SCAR-ADORNED CONGO GIRL  
Yuli Ikelemba girl, showing the oyster-shell ridge cicatrisation of her tribe. Remarkable also are her spear hairpins of beaten metal, and her way of wearing them

Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris



## BELGIAN CONGO

East Africa. Peace restored and the enemy expelled, the Belgians have resumed with undiminished zeal and increased confidence the task of converting the Congo region into the model state of Africa.

The task that lies before them is immense. They have not only to develop a vast expanse of territory—not less than a million square miles—but to raise the races of Central Africa in the scale of civilization, and bring them within the fold of our common humanity. They can measure the area of the Congo territories, but they cannot compute their total population, for the natives are repugnant above all things to the operation of being counted. Therefore it is only a guess that puts the number at anything from ten to thirty millions. If we strike a mean, we must remember that these twenty millions, far from presenting a single race or community, are broken up into a hundred tribes, differing among themselves in habits, views, and intelligence.

Some seem ripe to undergo the influence of European culture, others are debased and savage; all regard the white man's exhortations with more or less suspicion on the specious suggestions of the *ngangas*, or "witch doctors," and many years must elapse before the superstition of the fetish-man will be swept away.

The tribes of the Congo are classed as belonging to the Bantu-Negro stock, and the dwarfs, or pygmies, are regarded as the aboriginal race mentioned by Homer and Herodotus, which found a refuge from more powerful invaders in some of the more inaccessible of the African forests. The most important and numerous of the tribes into which the inhabitants are split up are the Bangalas, Batekes, Bayanzis, Bambalas, Balubas, Batatelas, Bakubas, Bakutus, Bakongos, Bakuendas, Basundis, Badjoks, and Bolokis. None of the tribes named is found east of Stanley Falls and the Upper Congo.

In the eastern divisions some of the more important tribes are the Zandés



TUSK HORNS, TOM-TOMS, AND RATTLE DRUMS FOR VILLAGE DANCE

Two boy drummers maintain the rhythm, which the tom-tom players syncopate with abrupt, resounding blows, while the booming, tooting horn-blowers imitate the trumpeting of elephants, roars of lions, leopards' cough, and bellow of wounded buffaloes. All is done with tremendous verve

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*





### QUEEN NENZIMA OF THE FALLEN, MAN-EATING MANGBETTUS

When this aged lady was wedded to a prince with 179 other wives, her country was at the height of its power, with large vassal states under it, and a flourishing native art. Credited with great wisdom, she is renowned as a debater in court, and when she speaks great numbers flock to hear her. She rendered important services when the Belgian Government occupied her country.

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*

(Niam Niam), Mongos, Mangbettus, to which must now be added the tribes subject to King Musinga of Ruanda. In the eastern districts, too, the tribal divisions, probably owing to the Arab slave raids in the past, have sunk into abeyance, and the population is classified under the names of their districts or their chiefs. The principal dwarf

races are the Batwas in the Kassai region, the Tique Tique of the Welle, and the Wambutis of the Upper Ituri. At the other end of the scale are the gigantic subjects or slaves of Musinga.

Taking these tribes in order, we find on the left bank of the lower river, that is from the Cataracts to the Atlantic, the Bakongos, Basundis, and





#### KING AKONDO OF THE MANGBETU IN ROYAL DANCING DRESS

He is a king of the North-West Congo, kindly to the vanquished stock he rules. When five hundred of them were building him a palace, he observed the custom of plying them with beer, and dancing for them. He is crowned with eagle and red parrot feathers; his necklace is of ivory, and bunches of warthog bristles, lemur skins, and strip of okapi hide endow him with wizard powers.

His endurance and agility in the dance are matters for pride among his admiring subjects

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*

Bakuendas. These tribes represent the subjects of the old native kingdom of Congo, now divided between Belgium and Portugal. On the right bank of the river are the Musarongos, who extend into French territory. Having been longer in contact with Europeans

than the tribes of the interior, these peoples have lost much of their primitive habits, and show less restraint in the presence of white visitors. The women take a prominent place in this society; not only do they perform all the field work, but they volubly discuss the





**KING MANZIGA AVUNGURA, SON OF UGWA, THE DREADFUL "DEVOURER"**

Here is a notorious Zandé chief of the North-West Congo, a half-breed Hamite and negro of superior intelligence and terrible tastes, whose spearmen have destroyed, and devoured, many black nations by the Ubangi and Welle waters, and become feared as far as the Upper Nile. Remark the primitive modesty of his attire of great bunched headdress and bark fibre cloth; they are his sign of rank. He leaves finery to serfs and commoners

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expédition, American Mus. of Nat. History*

affairs of the community as well as the latest local scandal. They always carry their children on their backs when they go to till the ground, being afraid to leave them behind on account of snakes or kidnapping. The Bakongos, never having been cannibals, live in constant

fear of their man-eating neighbours. The women not only do all the outdoor work, but on their return from the fields or the forest attend to the cooking, as it is beneath the dignity of man to attend to such matters. We then come to the Batekas, who represent the





**THE LADY OF PERFECT FASHION IN THE UPPER CONGO BACKWOODS**  
 The hand and knife of an artist are seen in her fine scar patterns ; her belt and double tails are the latest thing in totem ornament, and she has spent two days in getting her woolly hair into permanent plaits. They are now solidified with palm oil and camwood dust, and she means them to last, without re-dressing, for at least three months

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*



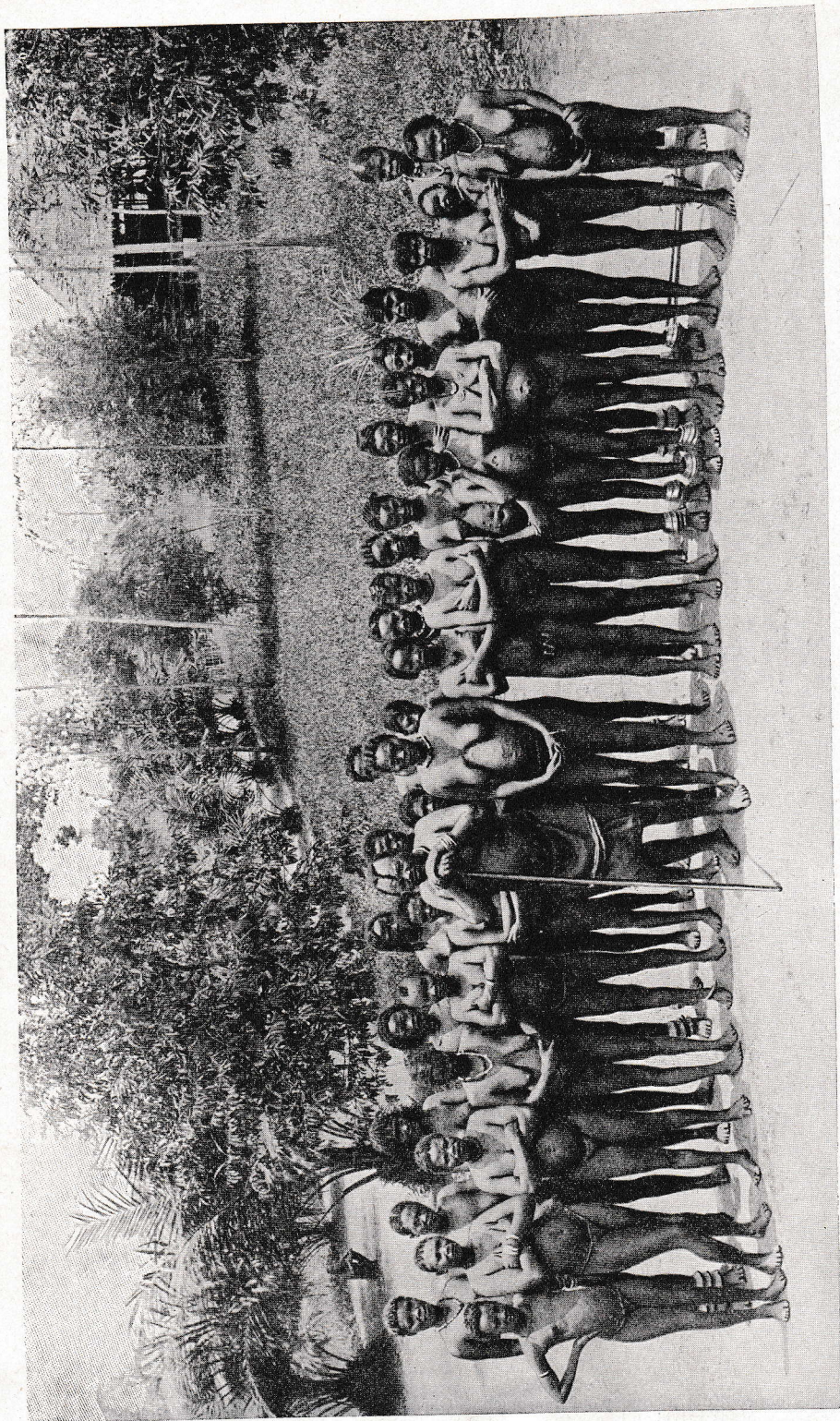


#### THE LOVELIEST VILLAGE MAID DRESSED TO LEAD THE DANCE

Besides being the most beautiful, she is also the most agile and enduring, for it would not do for the leader to be danced down by stronger women. One side of her face is whitened, the other reddened; and she has rattle and bells to sound time and music for the measures of the wild dances of strange fetish meaning. Like many of her sisters, she enhances her beauty with flesh scars.

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*

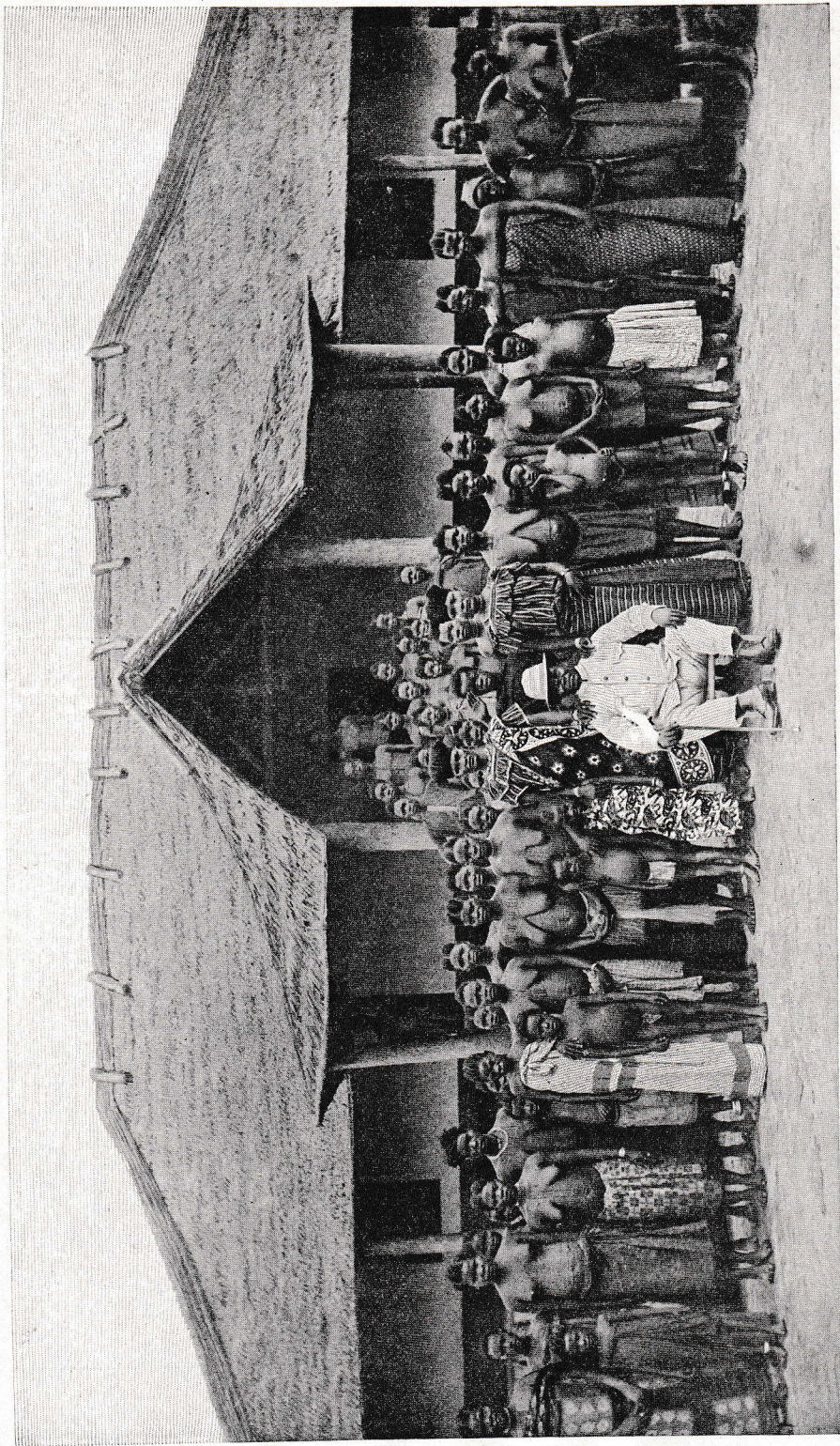




CONGO POTENTATE PRESENTS A SMALL SELECTION FROM HIS HAREM OF 1,000 WIVES  
They are a few favourites of the moment. Wit and good talk please him as much as young beauty. As is seen, his choice ranges from girls to elderly women.  
By his left hand is his head wife, who maintains order among fifty score rivals. He is often tempted into further marriages. Girls still show themselves off  
to him, less from admiration of his savage charms, than to win harem comforts

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





# CHIEF WHO DESIRES TO COMPLETE HIS CIVILIZED WAY OF LIFE BY CHRISTIAN POLYGAMY

Behind him is his thatched dwelling-place, newly constructed, as well as his men could, in European style as studied on the Congo. He has adopted white man's clothes, besides devising something like European dress for his two principal wives of blood royal, and a bright cotton wrap for his heir. All that stands in the way of his full transformation into a Christian prince is a few hundred wives

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





#### CONGO HANDYWOMEN GATHER AT CROCKERY MAKING

Pot-making is a pleasant task for these versatile women. It brings them together to gossip while working. Clay is brought from a river bed and strongly beaten. Sitting in the shade, the potters skilfully mould the lumps into desired shapes. Quickly the tropical sun dries and hardens the wet crocks and jars, which are finished over huge log fires



#### MERRY WEAVERS' MEETING IN SUN-SMITTEN MID-AFRICA

Close, steady work like this under the Congo sun, with body almost motionless for hours, would wreck a European. But open-air weaving of grass, fibre, and split leaves seems a native pastime. When apparently tired of doing nothing, the black women collect material and leisurely weave. Some tribes, like the Bambala, make very beautiful patterns in woven and embroidered cloths

*Photos, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





#### SUPPER IS READY FOR HER MAN AND CHILDREN

The plump, smiling, black housewife, fully arrayed in her evening attire of double necklace and wire and copper bangles, has her pot on the fire, full of cassava-bread, savoury caterpillars, and plantains. Proud is she of her find of fat caterpillars—such a change from the ordinary vegetables.

The family will be delighted, and joyfully she awaits their return



#### WOMEN GRINDING THE CORN THEY HAVE GROWN

These two wives are painfully grinding Indian corn for their husband's repast. How little can be ground at a time is shown by the few seeds on the nether stone. Men are so busy over fetish, hunting, beer, and palaver, that to women falls the hard work. So the more wives a negro purchases, the more luxuriously is he able to live

*Photos, Mrs. J. H. Harris*



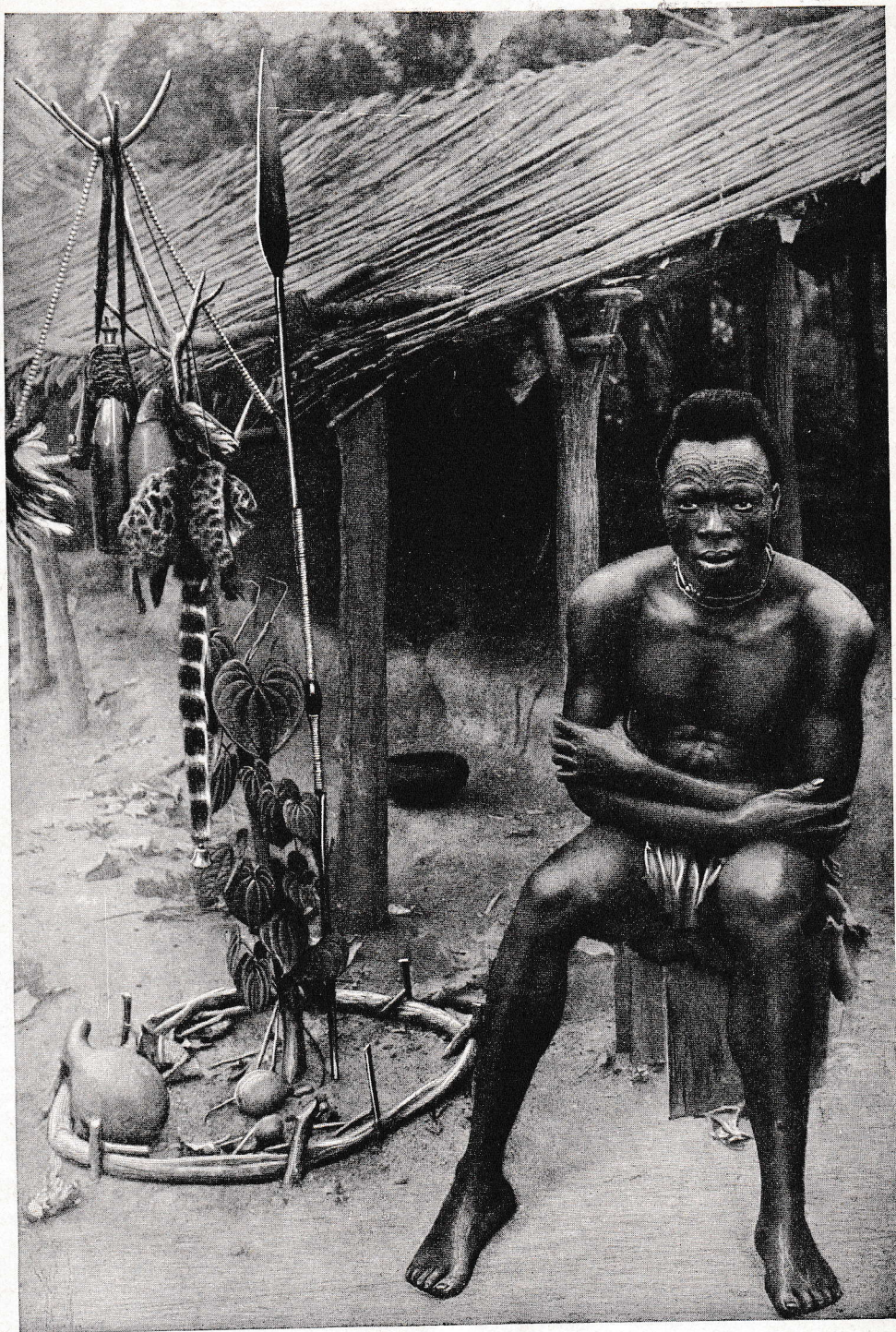


#### MONGO TRIBESMAN AND HIS WIFE IN THE FOREST

They live in a jungle clearing, and as the woman has business outside the village, her husband, taking spear and shield, has come with her. He walks in front, ready to protect her from lurking peril of hostile raiders or fierce beasts. For this reason, a woman carries all burdens, however heavy, and her man goes lightly with only his weapons

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





### WITCH DOCTOR OF DARKEST AFRICA AND HIS HOUSE OF FEAR

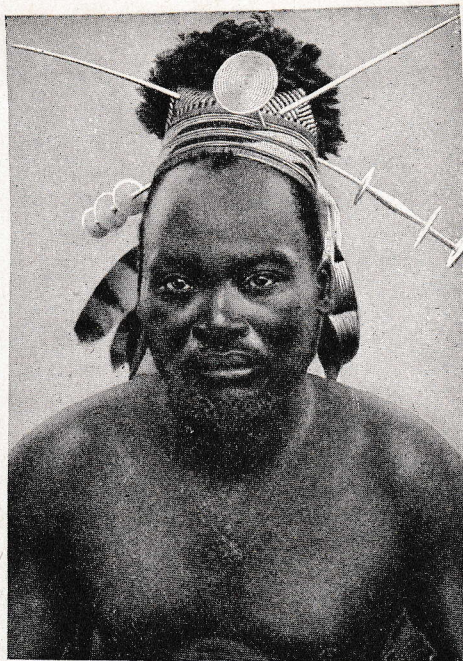
With keen, cunning eyes, framed for effect in rings of scar patterns, he sits by his primitive stock of quackeries. He is one of the men who have kept many millions of Congo natives attached to cannibalism, and held many more forest negroes to the practice of indescribable abominations. Expert in hypnotism, trances, and sleights of hand, he rules the village

*Photo. Mrs. J. H. Harris*

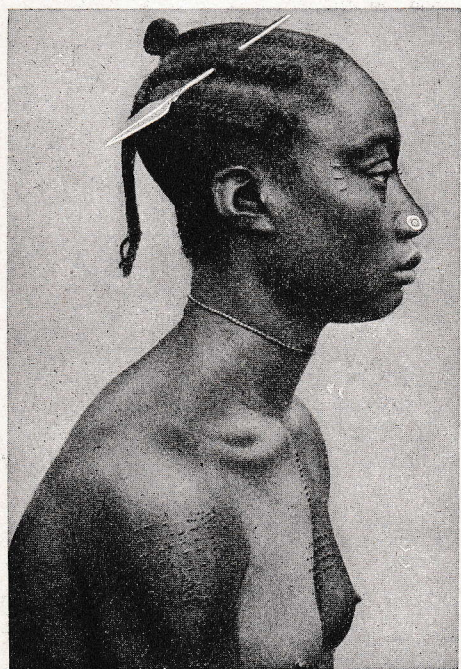




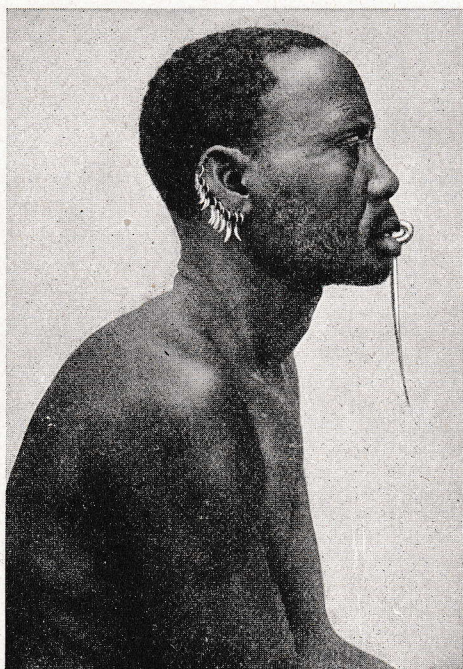
This black beauty has decorated herself to attract her chief's favour. She prefers harem to field work. Her face and body designs are in black paint, as well as the usual scars



Greatly he loves his ivory hairpins in his chieftain headdress, for they each have three discs, carven from tips of solid tusks, representing the sun



By her style of hairdressing, with bladed hairpin of ivory, and simple fibre necklace, this girl with ivory nose-plug shows she is in distress. Her scar markings are few and simple

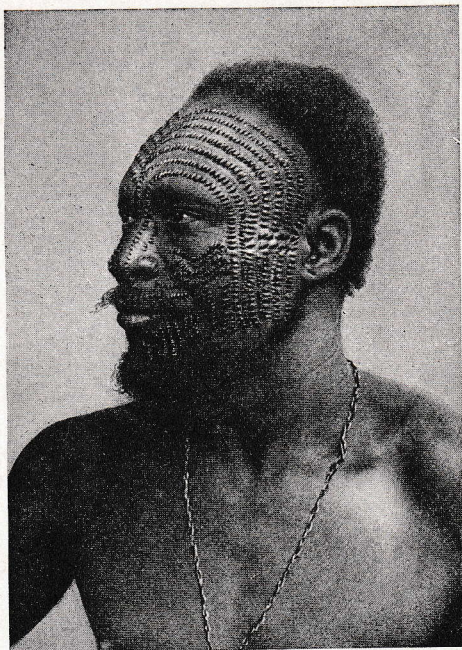


This wild borderer has himself made his long, uncomfortable ivory lip pin and extraordinary array of tooth-earrings. He has eaten strange flesh before Belgians arrived

#### STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL IVORY ORNAMENTS OF THE MANGBETTUS

*Photos, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*





This Ngombe chief displays a strange scar arrangement; more interesting is the man himself, with strong face, alien master of Congo country, famous for initiative



This grotesque face pattern in ridged flesh is known as a "full rasp." The man could only be photographed asleep; he fled the camera as witchcraft



She is a perfect Congo beauty. Each scar has been made by wounding with a knife and inserting irritating stuff to make the flesh swell up



The ancient cross, known as the swastika, scarred upon this woman's back, seems to be sole evidence of Congo negro knowledge of the mystic sign

# WEIRD CONGO IDEALS OF ADORNMENT BY SCARRING THE FLESH

*Photos, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





**HOW THEY USED TO CARRY OUT EXECUTIONS WITH POMP OF WIZARDRY AND TERROR IN CONGOLAND**  
 The decorated witch doctor, standing behind the criminal, has first to destroy his soul, in this mock execution, or otherwise prevent him from haunting the village. Then the players of the wooden tom-toms start a chant of cursings as the knifeman approaches. The prop, under the bent sapling, to which the prisoner is strung, is knocked aside, increasing the tension. The knifeman strikes through the neck, and the released sapling casts away the severed head

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





ZANDÉ SPEARMEN IN THE CLOSE BATTLE-ORDER THAT MADE THEM THE TERROR OF CONGO AND SUDAN  
 They are Manziga's "devourers" who, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, hacked their way from the Sudan, over the Congo watershed, into fertile Bomokandi, bringing with them an ancient Egyptian way of painting and carving, and an unappeasable appetite for human flesh. Meeting them, nearly all the real Mangbettus strangely vanished, leaving vassal tribes, now called by their name, over whom the Zandé chiefs rule

Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition. American Mus. of Nat. History





# COQUETRY AND GRACE IN FEATHERS AND BRASS ARRAYED FOR AN EVENING DANCE

They are arrayed in banana-leaf skirts and dancing plumes, with heavy brass anklets and armlets, for a dance in the forecourt of a chief's compound on the Upper Congo. Their anklets weigh as much as fifteen pounds, and yet they preserve their sinewy grace. Like most African amusements, it is taking place in the cool of the evening and the children have come out on the house-tops to watch

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





#### DANCING WOMEN OF THE UPPER CONGO WITH FRAYED BANANA-LEAF SKIRTS

The banana-leaf skirts are, like the dance paint, merely for ritual ornament. Most dances of the pagan negroes are performed with magical intention, and the dancers must therefore be arrayed and decorated with all things needed for producing the effect. Their movements are also directed to the same end. Behind the dancers are fine feathery palms, which produce much valuable palm-oil

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





AFRICAN MASTERPIECE IN BEAUTIFICATION

Her blobs of flesh are her supreme pride. They cost her more pain than ordinary raised scars. Operation after operation on each lump had to be performed, with intervals for healing, to reach this effect of prominences

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*

population of the Stanley Pool district, and share with the Bayanzi and the Bangalas possession of the river region as far as Stanley Falls. These three races are among the finest in the Colony, the Bayanzi having been a cannibal tribe which made a point of eating their captives. The Bangalas are not only very numerous, but are considered the most intelligent and capable race of the Congo, and assimilate European ideas with remarkable facility, and they have

even shown a capacity to learn French. They were the first of the native tribes from which the State recruited soldiers, and they displayed remarkable aptitude in learning their drill. They also used to be cannibals, but the practice is almost eradicated among them.

The Boloki, occupying the district east of New Antwerp, are a branch of the Bangalas, and are born fighters, their weapons being spears and knives. They have always been revengeful, and believe in the law of reprisals. One of their nasty habits used to be to eat their slaves, even when they died a natural death. This practice has now been abandoned, and theft is no longer punished by the mutilation of an ear, as was their native law. The rich women of this tribe are distinguished by their brass necklaces, sometimes weighing as much as 20lb., and the old currency of the Congo State, brass rods, lent itself excellently to this purpose.

To the north-east of the Bangalas is the region inhabited by the Babuas, Barambos, and Mangbetus. All these tribes have

been subject to the Belgians for nearly thirty years, and before that date they were engaged in a more or less incessant struggle to preserve their independence and existence against the Arab slave raiders. Of the three, the last-named were the most civilized and best organized. At first they treated the Belgians as enemies, but in a little time friendly relations were established, mainly through the influence of a female chieftain known as Tom Seina. The

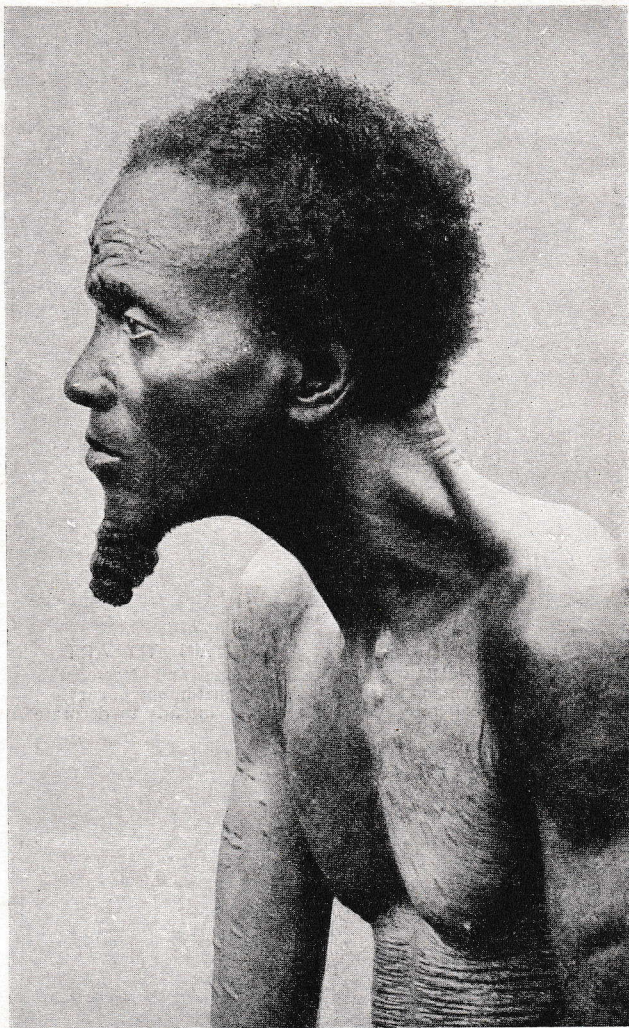


Mangbettus have been described as clear thinkers and fluent talkers, and their social influence is not limited to their own territory.

To the north of these tribes is another race of totally distinct stock—the Zandés, or Niam Niam. They belong to the Nouba and not to the Bantu family. They keep their promises and make excellent soldiers. They live on vegetables and game. Woman occupies an honourable place in their social system, being neither bought nor sold. They are passionately fond of music, and their national instrument is the mandoline. Their great chief, Sultan Semio, revealed the intelligence of a born statesman. The majority of the Zandés are now within French territory north of the Bomu.

Coming to the central region watered by the Kassai and its numerous tributaries, we have the Babunda, Bambala, Badjok, Bashongo, and Bankutu tribes. With the exception of the last named, these rank among the most promising races of the Congo. The Babunda are a prosperous people of the Cataracts district, who use rubber as their currency, and fix its price at secret markets.

They are physically a very fine race, and are reckoned the blackest people of Central Africa. Yet, curiously enough, the babies here, as elsewhere in negro lands, are born white. A distinctive feature of their social existence is that they do not dwell in villages, but in isolated huts surrounded by extensive plantations.



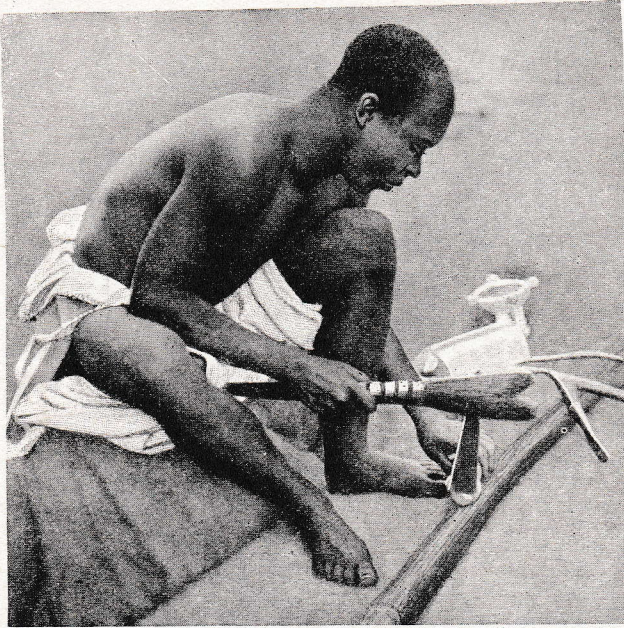
THE MOST FAMOUS BEARD IN CONGOLAND  
He is chief of a troublesome folk, but they are proud of him. Plaited and coiled under his chin is his beard, thin rather, but many feet long. Only on State occasions does he uncoil it for public admiration

Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris

Their eastern neighbours, the Bambala of the Kwango valley, are also very prosperous, and for plantations they have farms. Music is their chief delight, the flute being their principal instrument, and they are gamblers. It is curious to find among them the art of improvisation. In the evening the villages are a scene of joyful and noisy festivity. Their weapon was the bow, and it must be admitted that they were cannibals once upon a time. In the



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### ZANDÉ WARRIOR SETTLES DOWN TO ART

Restrained by Belgians from man-hunting and worse, this ferocious frontiersman is resuming the national hobby of carving. With an axe he is rough-hewing ivory he intends to decorate



### PRIMITIVE ARTIST WITH PRIMITIVE TOOL

Sure of hand and eye, with generations of craft knowledge within him, he works straightway on the ivory with his clumsy adze used as finely as a chisel. He never traces the design beforehand

*Photos, American Mus. of Nat. History*

valley of the Lulua, a tributary of the Kassai, and in the region between it and the Sankuru lies the country of the Balubas. They occupy a region of remarkable fertility, and so salubrious that it has been called the Paradise of the Congo. The Balubas have proved themselves thoroughly loyal and well-behaved, and are among the staunchest supporters of Belgian rule. They possess more than an elementary knowledge of navigation, and are skilful builders of canoes and dugouts.

The Badjoks, in contrast with their neighbours, are a hunting and not a settled tribe. They are well known as elephant hunters, and spurn both agriculture and planting. They are reputed to have become rich by the acquisition of ivory; but, despite their wealth, continue to use old flintlocks for their sport. They are apparently a race of immigrant conquerors, and their organization is formed on a war footing.

They are given to strong drink, the famous cane sugar wine, and sit up late into the night indulging their passion and carrying on heated discussions the while. Distinct from all their neighbours, they may be akin to either the Zandés, or the dwarf races.

The Bushongos are remarkable for their ethical culture more than for their material prosperity. They believe in one god and have an admirable code of moral laws. Their artistic talent



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has been displayed in remarkable wood carvings. Perhaps it is due to their intellectual development that secret societies have gained a firm hold in their midst.

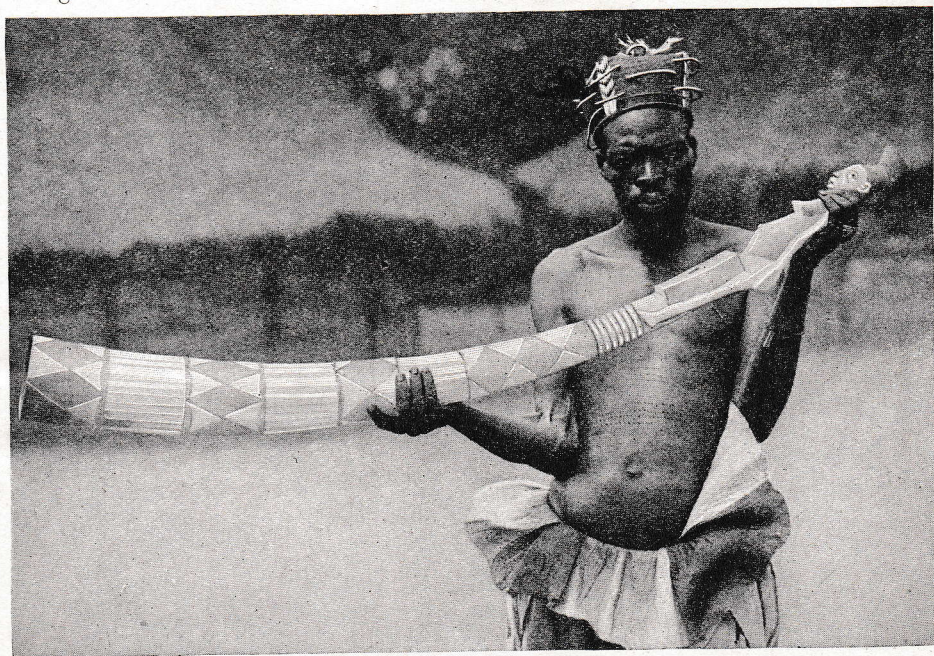
Compared with these four advanced tribes, the Bankutus make but a sorry picture. They are the dirtiest race of Central Africa, never wash, the women scar their faces in a repulsive fashion, eat their slaves on death, stalk their neighbours for food, and have no redeeming qualities. In contrast with the Bankutus may be placed the Bapendi, who are dog-eaters, while the Bankutus will eat almost everything except dogs.

Probably the best known of all the Congolese tribes, on



### PROUDLY THE CANNIBAL POLISHES HIS WORK

The carving of ivory vase and of the small mallet for pounding cloth-making bark is finished. He is giving the mallet a final polish with leaves containing silica crystals



### TRUMPETER OF THE MANGBETTU COURT AND HIS CARVEN HORN

This is one of the old imperial horns, modelled from a choice tusk by a Mangbetu craftsman, in the days when the carvers formed a small, close caste credited with supernatural powers. Any outsider trying to compete with them was in grave danger of being sentenced to be eaten

*Photos, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*



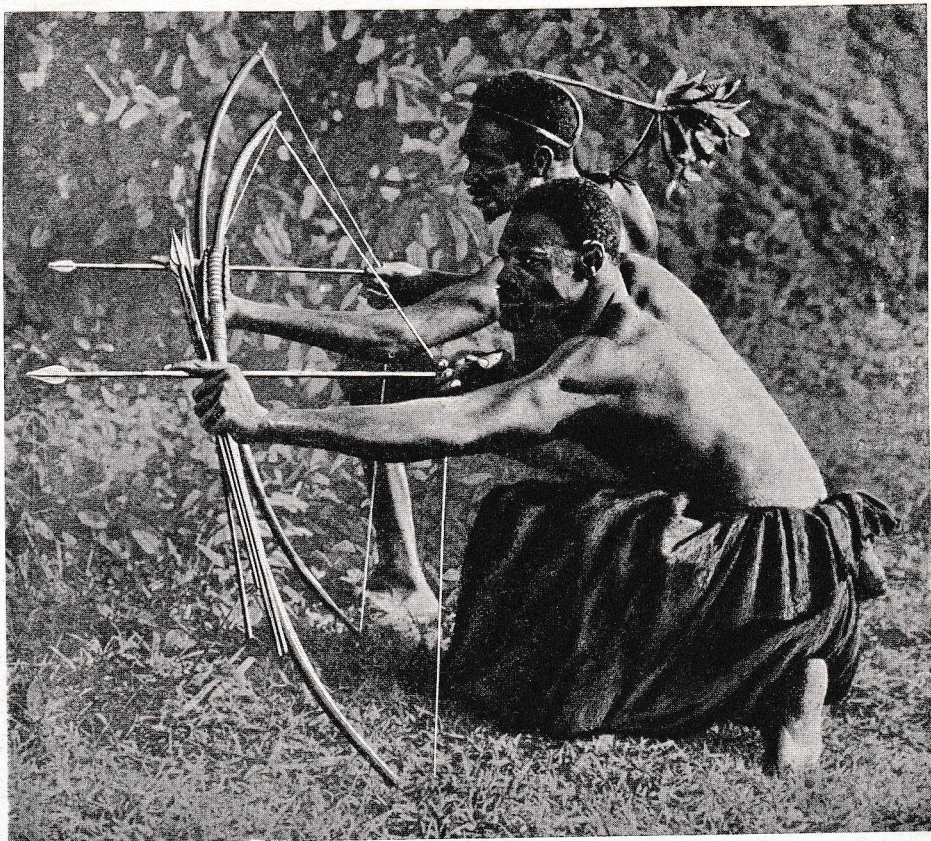


# GROTESQUE PYGMY HUNTERS OF THE WELLE, AIMING THEIR POISON ARROWS

This remarkable race of Congo dwarfs has been driven by negroid cannibals into their last refuge, the sombre, swampy tropic forest, but there they have proved unconquerable. Recently they ambushed the Zandé spearmen and, invisible themselves, slew their foes with poisoned arrows, such as they are here shown using. They are magnificent hunters, and gather round their best archer. They become friends with folk who treat them fairly

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*





#### BIG-GAME HUNTERS OF THE LOGO TRIBE IN THE WELLE RAIN FOREST

The savage in front, with his grim face, is the most famous elephant hunter of his district. When he dances after his victories, small bells attached to his bow jingling celebrate each fine shot he has made. All the tribe use these bows for war. Their way is to pull the string with a twang, startling a foe and causing him to stop or turn, then a quick arrow brings him down.

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*

account of the part they took in the Arab war, are the Batatelas, who inhabit the Upper Lomami and Sankuru valleys. This tribe is affiliated with the Bakussus, who dwell close to the Upper Congo above Stanley Falls. Owing to their proximity to Manyema, they long ranked among the most active auxiliaries of the Arab slave-dealers.

At first the Batatelas opposed the advance of the Belgians, but after several defeats their chief Gongo Lutete went over to Baron Dhanis, and helped him to crush the Arabs. But, unfortunately, the Batatelas were unabashed cannibals, and when several of their chiefs were shot for this offence, their allegiance was rudely shaken. A final shock was administered to their relations when Gongo Lutete was executed as a traitor under a complete misapprehension. The

penalty of this blunder was that the Batatela contingent mutinied, and threatened for a time to overthrow Belgian authority. Even after order was restored, a costly struggle continued for three or four years. The Batatelas, who were once thought likely to provide the bulk of the native troops, are now restricted to a very small contingent. They have some artistic leanings. Their wall pictures bear a close resemblance to those of the cave-dwellers in Spain in Neolithic times.

As a result of the campaign in German East Africa, Belgium has now acquired the greater part of the kingdom of Ruanda, ruled by a remarkable monarch named Musinga, who represents a dynasty four or five centuries old. Unfortunately, in the arrangement of



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frontiers, this ancient kingdom was deprived of the Kisaka districts on the left bank of the Kagera, and Musinga laments to this day the loss of the fertile territory where roamed his sacred flocks. The lofty plateau of Ruanda, east of Lake Kivu, is beyond question the most fertile region of Africa.

Musinga has two million subjects, and every one of them is said to be the possessor of a cow. Goats and sheep are equally numerous, and the people are among the finest specimens of humanity on the continent. The men generally exceed six feet in height, and there are many veritable giants of eight feet. Moreover, they are very athletic, able to jump obstacles of their own height, and to cast their spears with precision for a distance of sixty yards or more. All taxation is paid in kind, and there is no currency. The authority of the king is absolute in all matters temporal and spiritual, but a queen-mother is always co-existent in authority. If the king's own mother is dead, an official substitute, called "the old woman," is selected, as without

her presence the king cannot be crowned. The dwarf races or pygmies (as a matter of fact they do not deserve that name, for their average height exceeds four feet) are exclusively devoted to the pursuit of game. Unlike the negroes, they are scrupulously clean, and they burn instead of burying their dead. Cannibalism has never been known among them, and whereas they keep all the native tribes at arm's length, and have never within the historical period formed an alliance with any of them, they have always received Europeans as brothers.

While the negro tribes differ from one another in so many points that they might be considered to have distinct origins, they show singular agreement in a few essential matters that go to prove that they all must come of the same stock. Among these points is the prevalent belief in the witch doctor as the interpreter and exponent of fetishism. The ngangas, "the knowing ones," or witch doctors, are the high priests of that form of religion or idolatry which is based on



KEEN-FACED TRIBESMEN OF THE CONGO FOREST

This photograph of men of a wild forest tribe, south of the main Congo river, shows clearly that African tribesmen are by no means invariably thick-lipped or flat-nosed. Some of this group might even suggest a Semitic origin, though they are more probably Hamitic

*Photo, Mrs. J. H. Harris*





**DANGA, AN OVERLORD OF THE MANGBETTU, WITH HIS BODY MAIDS**  
 He is a tamed cannibal chief, and this is the proudest moment in his new career. From Danga's neck, as he perches in pomp on his stool, holding his big spear, dangles a medal just bestowed upon him. By his side are his favourite body servants, likely soon to be admitted to his harem

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*

charms, trials by poison, divinations, and astrology. Their power has been arrested in some parts of the Congo, but in others it shows no diminution.

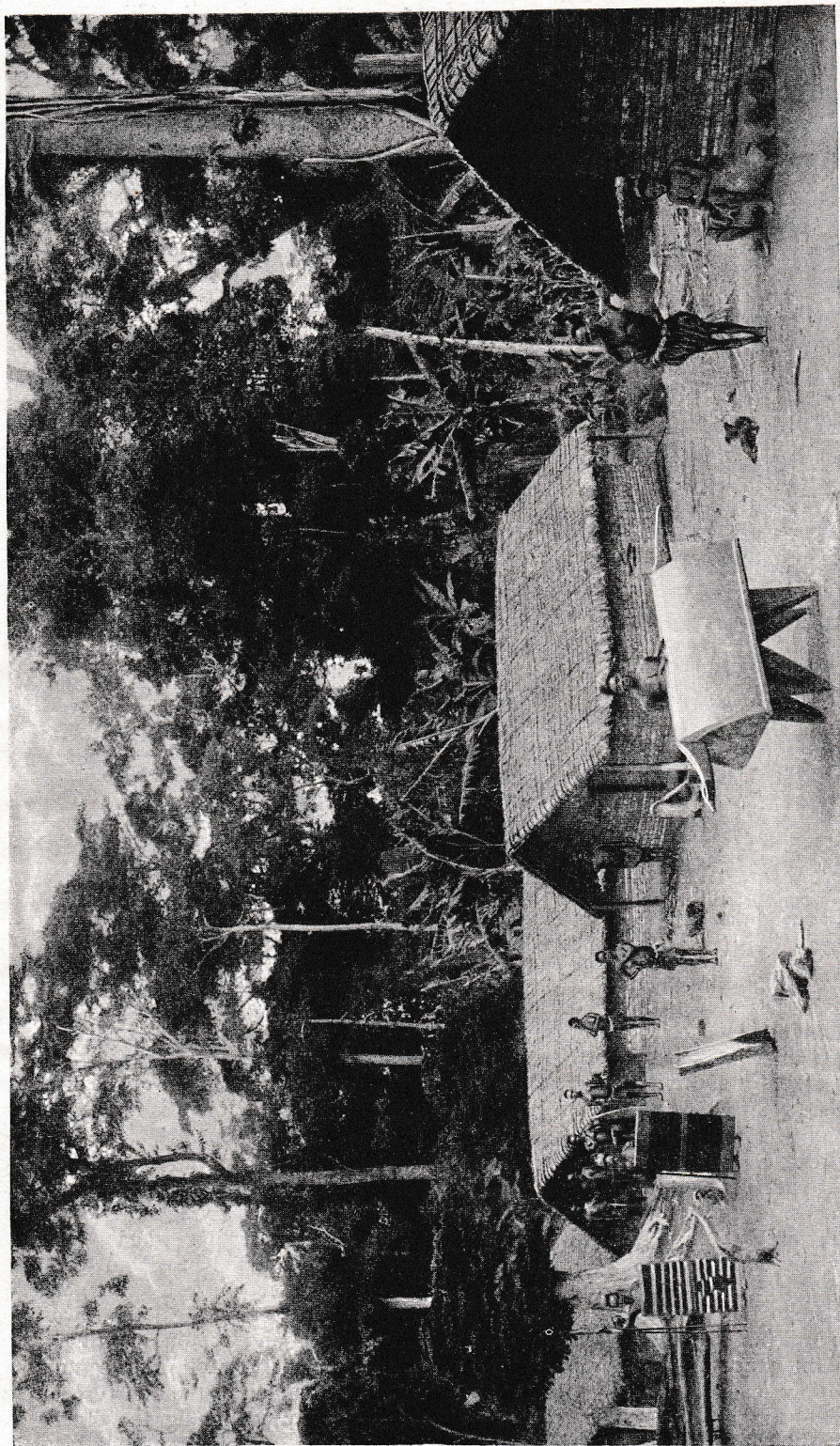
Of late years, curiously enough, the range of the fetisher's operations has been restricted by the activity of secret societies, which work for their own ends. They exist for various objects, mostly social or sensual, such as drinking bouts with manga or sugarcane wine. The Society of "the Country of the Dead," is one of the oldest and most powerful. Its members stand for the maintenance of old practices, such as the burying of widows with their deceased husbands. These societies reveal an unsuspected capacity for unity

and organization, and European visitors and officials have alike failed to discover their secret signs or passwords.

Among the hopeful signs for the future of the races of the Congo is the marked decline of cannibalism. It is declining, not merely owing to the penalties imposed by law, but also to growing security.

Polygamy also is dying out. It has become too expensive when woman requires to be dressed in cotton clothes of European produce. As a consequence, the men will have to take up work. Coffee, cocoa, and cotton planting, as well as rubber collection, are beginning to interest the men of the Congo region, and they are abandoning the old lust for murder and plunder.





# VILLAGE OF FIGHTING AND ARTISTIC CANNIBALS BY RUNGU ON THE EDGE OF THE CONGO BASIN

The walls of their neat houses are covered with bark; roofs are made watertight with wide, flat leaves, attached to the rafters and bound with fibre cords. In the foreground is a large gong, hewn from a tree of resonant wood, and roughly shaped like an animal. The head and tail form handles for sounding it. It is employed for signalling to neighbouring villages or for summoning the people to feast or dance.

*Photo, H. Lang, Congo Expedition, American Mus. of Nat. History*



## BELGIAN CONGO: FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

West African tropical country (Congo Belge) lying between French Equatorial Africa on west and north, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Uganda, and Tanganyika on east, and Northern Rhodesia and Angola on south. Comprises nearly the whole of the basin of Congo River. Consists of four provinces: Katanga, Congo Kasai, Equator, and Eastern, divided into twenty-two administrative districts, further divided into 179 territories.

Districts of Ruanda and Urundi, formerly German East Africa, are under Belgian mandatory. Eastern portion of Ruanda and a small part of Urundi have been attached to Tanganyika under British control to provide route for Uganda-Tanganyika railway, which, when completed, will form a section of the Cape to Cairo railway.

Area about 910,000 square miles. Population variously estimated at from ten to thirty millions. Official estimate of peoples of Bantu origin is 11,000,000 with about 7,000 Europeans in all.

### Government

The colony is administered by Belgian Minister for the Colonies (appointed by the King, but responsible to Parliament), who is also President of the Colonial Council of fifteen members, of whom eight are appointed by the King, three elected by the Senate, and three by the Chamber of Representatives. A Governor-General and the vice-Governor-Generals of the provinces represent the King in the colony. Justice is administered by seventy-five magistrates and the administrators of the 179 territories have also judicial powers. Annual revenue averages little over £2,000,000, half of which is raised by customs and direct taxation, most of remainder being produced by the mines, taxes on ivory, and agricultural receipts. For several years expenditure has exceeded revenue by about £800,000.

### Defence

Native troops voluntarily enlisted, totalling about 16,000 infantry with 365 European officers and non-commissioned officers, most of whom are Belgians. Service is for a term of seven years. Also about 6,000 police in the territories.

### Commerce and Industries

Value of commerce increases annually, most important products being rubber, palm nuts and palm oil, copal, cocoa, coffee, and ivory. Rice, cotton, and tobacco are grown in most of the native villages. Rubber, cocoa, and coffee plantations have been established by the Government as well as by private enterprise.

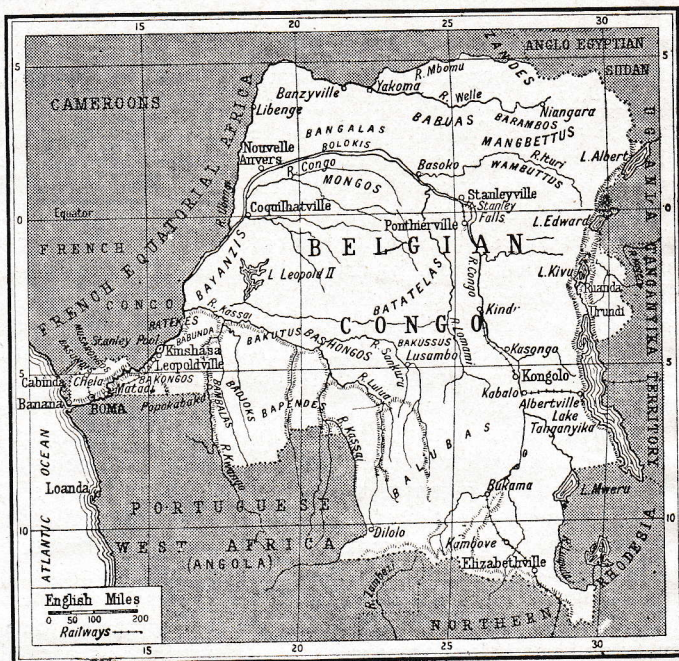
Gold and copper mining are increasingly important; latest annual returns show production of 3,356 kilos (9,250 lbs. troy) of gold from Kivu, and 22,000 tons of copper from Kambove mines.

Diamonds have been discovered, and about 200,000 carats were exported in one year. Coal, iron, manganese, and tin have also been reported, but have not been worked on a profitable scale.

High plateaus of the south-east and Ruanda and Urundi districts, where tsetse fly is absent, support considerable quantities of cattle. Much of the country is covered with dense forest.

### Communications

Congo River is navigable in portions amounting to about 1,750 miles out of its total length of over 3,000 miles, and several of its great tributaries are also navigable to a considerable extent. State steamer services are run ninety miles from the mouth of the Congo to Matadi, and 200 miles farther up, from Leopoldville (Stanley Pool)



BELGIAN CONGO AND ITS PEOPLES

to Stanley Falls, nearly 1,100 miles, services have been organized by the Government and private companies, about eighty vessels in all being employed. About 5,600 miles of good roads, and 1,267 miles of railway. Elizabethville in the south is a station on the Cape to Cairo railway, about 2,300 miles from Cape Town. Over 2,000 miles of telegraph lines and fifteen wireless stations.

### Chief Towns

Capital of the colony, Boma. Capitals of the provinces are: Katanga, Elizabethville; Congo Kasai, Leopoldville; Equator, Coquilhatville; Eastern, Stanleyville.

### Money

Belgian currency is in general use, even by natives. Bank-notes have been issued by Banque du Congo Belge from one to a thousand francs since gold is not in circulation and silver has been largely hoarded.



# Bhutan

## Strange Hill Folk & Their Enchanted Land

By Sir Thomas Holdich, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E.

Author of "The Indian Borderland"

**T**HROUGHOUT the long extended width of the Himalayas between the Indus and the Brahmaputra there is no country so remarkable for the grandeur of its natural features as Bhutan.

Its lofty mountains, enclosing deep and precipitous gorges, the natural stairways from the plains of the Duars to the edge of the Tibetan plateau, are clothed with vegetation to their very summits. Deep dark forests of pines and firs reach nearly to the snow line. Below them, but still at an elevation of 8,000 to 9,000 feet, are oaks and many coloured rhododendrons. In the lower depths of the many valleys formed by the rushing torrents cutting their cliff-bound way to the Brahmaputra is a sub-tropical vegetation. A glorious tangle of bamboo forest, thick with undergrowth, may be strewn with the graceful fronds of gigantic tree ferns, and in the gloomy depths of the intersecting waterways most gorgeous butterflies make brilliant star patterns in the humid atmosphere. It is an enchanted land, almost fantastic in its endless variety and anomalous scenery.

High above the Himalayan spurs, of which rank after rank constitute the chief geographical features of Bhutan, are the glittering snows of Tibet.

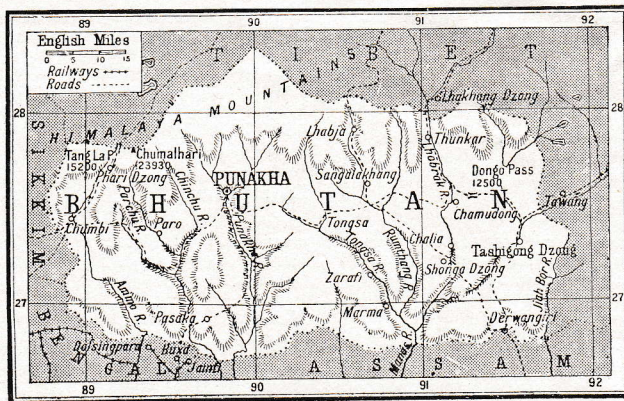
Standing midway, it is possible to scan the beauty of these lofty

snow-clad peaks, and at the same time to look downwards into the depths of almost tropical scenery. I have seen a bamboo forest in an upland valley under snow, with the laden stems curved and entangled into one gigantic pattern of lacework of inconceivable beauty.

But progress along the paths and byways which are the roads of Bhutan is not all joy. Countless biting and stinging insects are in the air, and under the humid influence of the rains every wayside leaf is the "jumping off" opportunity for a watchful leech. It is impossible to avoid these pests, for they exist in myriads, and they attack men and animals alike with equal bloodthirstiness and often with disastrous effect.

The political value of Bhutan to the Indian Government is chiefly centred in its service as a stepping-stone to the high altitudes of Tibet. Formerly the spasmodic efforts of the Indian Government to cultivate friendly relations with Lhasa were directed along the difficult routes which traverse Bhutan and emerge on to the Tibetan plateau, after winding upward along the slopes of the great spurs which form the slippery ramps from the plains.

The two routes which have historically been most frequently made use of are those of Buxa, in the west, and Derwangiri, in the east. The Buxa route is still regarded as



THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF BHUTAN